

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. BA 1646

Magi No. 0316462606

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Nacirema Barn

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1606 Near Thicket Lane ☐ not for publication

city, town Stevenson ☒ vicinity of Councilmanic District 3rd
congressional district 2nd

state Maryland county Baltimore County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Beth J. Kaplan & Bruce Sholk

street & number 1608 Near Thicket Lane telephone no.: 410-526-9440

city, town Lutherville state and zip code MD 21093

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Courts Building liber SM 10744

street & number 401 Bosley Avenue folio 635

city, town Towson state MD 21204

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Green Spring Valley N.R.H.D. Survey

te 1979 ☒ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust 100 Community Place

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. BA 1646

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA, wrote the following during the 1980 Valleys Planning Council study of the Green Spring Valley:

The NACIREMA BARN is two storeys in height; its stone first storey is expressed as five bays in length while its frame, shingled second storey is expressed as eight bays in length. A square cupola with a bellcast roof is astride the gabled roof of the barn. The principal facade is to the south and the central three bays of the first storey are deeply recessed beneath the second storey, supported by two massive stone piers. The outer bays of the first storey each contain a triple six-light sash. The south wall within the recessed area contains numerous doorways to the stalls within. Several doors and windows are in the end walls of the first storey. The south wall of the tall upper loft storey contains tall doorways with arched louvered transoms in the third and sixth bays; the other six bays each contain a single rectangular louvered opening. Four such openings are in the end walls, two are above low in the gables and a single one is high in each gable. A round louvered opening is in each face of the cupola and a highly ornamental wind-vane tops the cupola. The interior of the structure was not examined.

In late 1997 and early 1998, the barn was being converted to residential use with new window frames and lights as the only noticable external features.

*adaptive reuse
~~2006~~ bad condition
wood*

*John Ch.
Nancy K.
Tom K.
B. Wollon.*

8. Significance

Survey No. BA 1646

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Pre-1898 Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Nacirema Barn was a feature of an estate called New Stoneton where there was a great Italianate house with a square tower designed by Jackson C. Gott for Alexander Hamilton Stump, president of the Merchants National Bank. The house was built after 1860 when Stump inherited Old Stoneton from his uncle Samuel Stone. 2

Dawn F. Thomas reported in 1978 that the Stump estate also contained a carriage house, slave house, and "other outbuildings." 3

Stump died on February 18, 1886, and was buried on the grounds, but later reinterred at Saint Thomas' P.E. Church cemetery at Garrison Forest Road. The property was then divided into several lots to sell. We have not found an auction advertisement in the county papers in the months following a court order to dispose of the property and the date of its actual sale in early 1888.

The main house and 171 acres were purchased in March 1888 by Mrs. Annie E. Agnus, wife of Felix Agnus, for \$25,000. 4

Felix Agnus, sometimes called "General", was a former French soldier who had served in the 1859 war against the Austrians in Northern Italy. Following that he came to the United States in 1860, worked for Tiffany & Company in New York as a silversmith, then joined the Union Army as a member of the Fifth New York Zouaves. Agnus was commissioned a lieutenant for bravery at the Battle of Big Bethel in Virginia in June 1862. Wounded a few days later at the Battle of Gaines Mill, Agnus was shipped back to Baltimore to recover. There he was befriended by a city family and wound up marrying their daughter in 1864. By the end of the war Agnus held the brevet rank of general.

After the war, the young general was taken into the newspaper business by his father-in-law Charles Carroll Fulton. Agnus eventually became publisher and owner of the Baltimore American. 5

Maryland Historical Trust/
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

name of property: Nacirema Barn

Section number 8 Page 2

On buying New Stoneton, Agnus renamed it "Nacirema," which is "American" spelled backwards. Here Agnus lived on a grand scale, raised horses, and gave elegant parties, once entertaining 1,500 persons. 6

The important question is whether the barn was built by Agnus or did it come with the New Stoneton mansion. The structure was estimated as an early 20th century building on the National Register form prepared in 1980 by James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA, and Darlene O. Schultz, who wrote the architectural and historical pages, respectively. The barn seems to be one of the small squares at the bend of the estate road shown in the 1898 and 1915 issues of Bromley's atlases. 7 The 1877 atlas is not helpful because only a large square representing the mansion appeared.

Agnus wrote extensively, including an article about cattle raising at Nacirema which appeared in the Towson weekly in the early 1890s. In 1894 he wrote a testimonial letter for New Jersey Enamel Paint, saying he used it "on my residence and outbuildings at Nacirema." 8

On the death of Agnus in 1925, the mansion passed to James Walter Carter and Margaret Wolfolk Carter, who had the spacious Victorian villa demolished to build something more modern. The successor house never came into being and the property was subdivided in 1940, the mansion lot and the barn passing to Carle A. Jackson, son of the mayor of Baltimore, and his wife opera diva Rosa Ponselle Jackson. The Jacksons had an authentic masonry Italian country house built on the hilltop in 1940 to a design of Palmer and Lambden. That house was called Villa Pace from the aria "Pace, Pace, O Mio Dio" from Verdi's La Forza del Destino, the opera in which Rosa had made her debut in 1918 opposite Enrico Caruso. This third great house on the premises cost \$500,000.

Even today, opera critics call Ms. Ponselle the greatest female vocalist of the century; her records are now available in compact disc. Ms. Ponselle sold parts of the Villa Pace grounds over the years, disposing of the barn tract in 1950 to Dr. Nicholas L. Ballich. 9 After her divorce, she used Ponselle as her official name, although she was born Rosa Ponzillo and adopted Ponselle as a stage name in vaudeville. She died at the villa on May 25, 1981. For a time Baltimore County considered buying the property for educational purposes but eventually the house was acquired by Thomas Obrecht and wife. 10 In 1997, the U.S. Post Office issued a stamp bearing Rosa Ponselle's portrait, adding her to the other

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name of property: Nacirema Barn

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three Baltimore County tax-payers depicted on U.S. stamps.

NOTES:

1. Industries of Baltimore, 1882.
2. Dawn F. Thomas, The Green Spring Valley (Baltimore, 1978), p. 340.
3. Thomas, Green Spring Valley, p. 343.
4. Baltimore County Deeds, JWS 168:54.
5. Sunday Sun, November 1, 1922.
6. Thomas, pp. 344-345.
7. G. W. Bromley, et al., Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland (Philadelphia, 1898, 1915), Plates 21, 41, respectively.
8. Maryland Journal, Towson, April 28, 1894.
9. Baltimore County Deeds, GLB 1911:229.
10. Baltimore County Deeds, EHK JR. 8937:93.

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r
n

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA 1646

Dawn F. Thomas, The Green Spring Valley (Baltimore, 1978), pp. 343-346.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Lot 1 = 5.924 acresQuadrangle name CockeysvilleQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Eastng	Northng							

B

Zone	Eastng	Northng							

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Irregular figure, Lot 1 in Minor Subdivision, Parcel "A" Section One, "Green Spring," Plat Book EHK JR. 39:6.

List all states and counties for properties overliapping state or county boundaries

state None code county None code state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John McGrainorganization Office of Planningdate January 15, 1998street & number 401 Bosley Avenuetelephone 410-887-3495city or town Towsonstate MD 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Early 1900's

BA - 1646

Nacirema Barn

Green Spring Valley Road

Barn

The Nacirema Barn is a very large and carefully designed barn, two storeys in height composed of stone first level and a frame shingled second level. The barn was once part of an estate known as "Nacirema" belonging to Felix and Annie Angus

ANGUS

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

NACIREMA BARN

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1606 Near Thicket Lane

~~Green Spring Valley Road~~

Second

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Stevenson

☒ VICINITY OF

Baltimore

STATE

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Greenspring Limited

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

☐ VICINITY OF**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Liber #: 5530

Folio #: 653

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION

— EXCELLENT
 X GOOD
 — FAIR

— DETERIORATED
 — RUINS
 — UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

X UNALTERED
 — ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE
 — MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The NACIREMA BARN is two storeys in height; its stone first storey is expressed as five bays in length while its frame, shingled second storey is expressed as eight bays in length. A square cupola with a bellcast roof is astride the gabled roof of the barn. The principal facade is to the south and the central three bays of the first storey are deeply recessed beneath the second storey supported by two massive stone piers. The outer bays of the first storey each contain a triple six-light sash. The south wall within the recessed area contains numerous doorways to the stalls within. Several doors and windows are in the end walls of the first storey. The south wall of the tall upper loft storey contains tall doorways with arched louvred transoms in the third and sixth bays; the other six bays each contain a single rectangular louvred opening. Four such openings are in the end walls, two are above low in the gables and a single one is high in each gable. A round louvred opening is in each face of the cupola and a highly ornamental wind-vane tops the cupola.

The interior of this structure was not examined.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) barn	
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The NACIREMA BARN is a very large and carefully designed barn, relating to a great Italianate mansion of the 1860s which once stood nearby.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See title search, attached

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James T. Wollon, Jr., A. I. A. (Darlene O. Schultz) 2-27-80

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Valleys Planning Council

828-7807

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Towson

Maryland

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH
Nacirema Barn

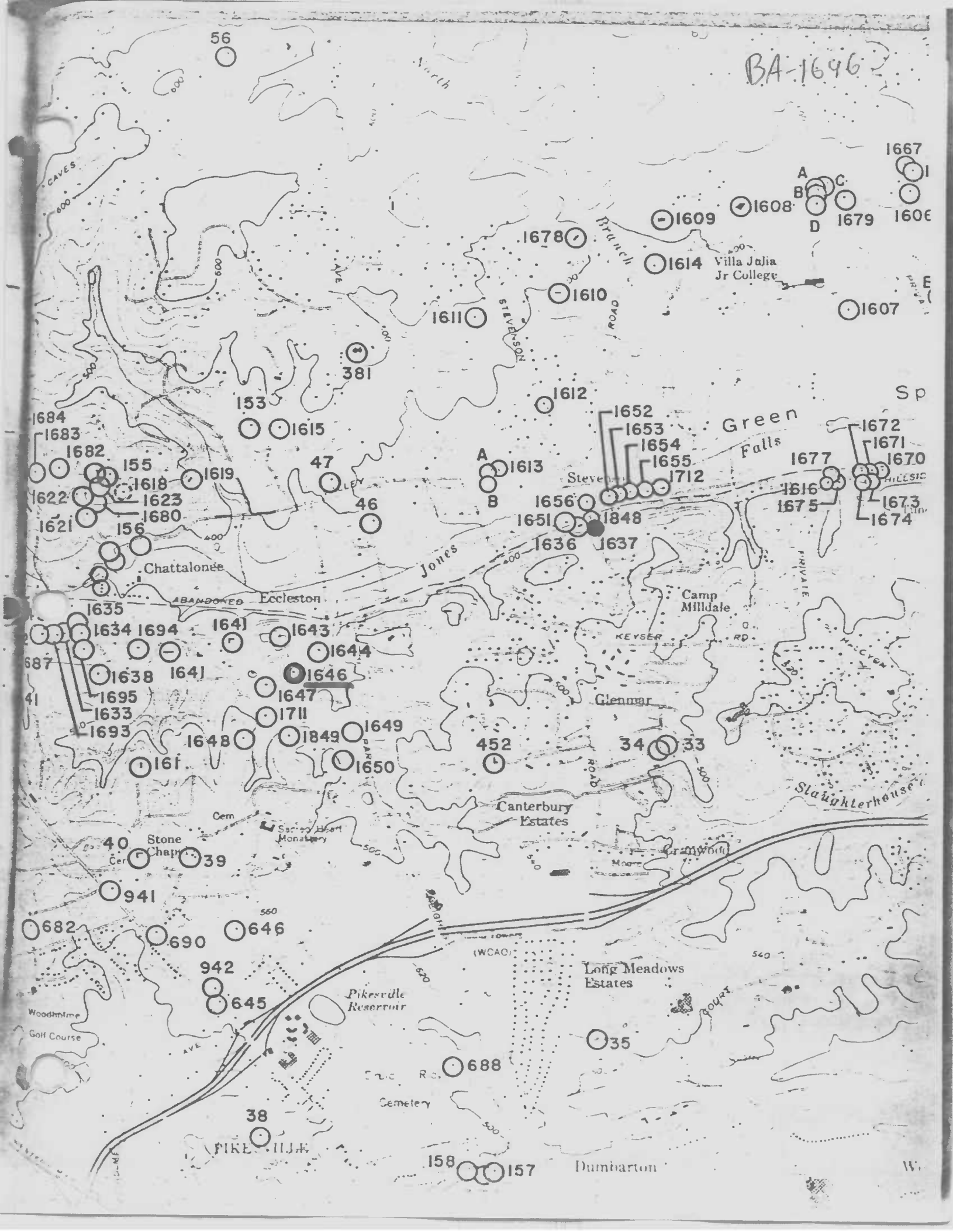
Tax Map 59, Parcel "A", Plat 39/6

<u>Liber</u>	<u>Folio</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Grantor</u>	<u>Grantee</u>
5530	653	May 16, 1975	Nicholas L. Ballich	Greenspring Limited
Beginning according to a survey prepared by George W. Stephens and Associates, Inc., Engineers, April 28, 1975; revised May 1, 1975 Containing 147.281 acres.				
1911	229	Dec. 6, 1950	Rosa Ponselle (formerly Jackson)	Nicholas L. Ballich
Containing 21.018 acres				
1761	296	Apr. 22, 1949	Ida Brenner	Rosa P. Jackson
1761	293	Apr. 22, 1949	Carle A. Jackson	Ida Brenner
1524	400	Nov. 25, 1946	Raymond S. Clark	Carle A. Jackson
1092	327	Jan. 20, 1940	James W. Carter	Raymond S. Clark
Containing 104.318 acres				
638	1	Mar. 8, 1926	Daniel R. Randall	James W. Carter
Daniel R. Randall et al was appointed trustee through Equity Case "Oscar Leser et al <u>vs.</u> Felix Angus et al" Judicial Record 319/518, to sell the estate "Nacirema"				

Felix and Annie Angus owned 191.55 acres of land known as "Nacirema" conveyed to them through the following three deeds:

168	54	Mar. 15, 1888	Samuel H. Caughy, Trustee
186	89	May 12, 1891	Charles O. Cockey, Trustee
196	332	Jan. 16, 1893	Sarah B. Jenkins

BA-1646







BA-1646

NACIREMA BARA

James T. Wollen, Jr.

2-27-80